[English]

Foreign Funded Lotteries

3240. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government towards foreign funded lotteries underway in the Indian market through the Indian shell companies by resort to backdoor entry by way of licences from Region;

(b) whether the State Governments are empowered to grant licence for such lotteries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban such move; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) The Central Government has not formulated any policy towards foreign funded lotteries as the lottery trade in the country is conducted by the State Governments in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Central Government and the Supreme Court. The foreign funded lotteries do not qualify under the guidelines.

[Translation]

Hilly Areas of Madhya Pradesh

3241. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to declare some hilly areas of Madhya Pradesh as adivasi areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir. The Ministry has not received any proposal from the State Government for declaration of hilly areas of Madhya Pradesh as adivasi areas.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Inclusion of Sikkim in N.E. Council

3242. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to club Sikkim into the North-East Council; and

(b) if so, whether any economic package will be granted to Sikkim as in case of North-East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Government is taking all steps for speedy economic development of Sikkim. An amount of Rs. 220 crores has been allocated for 1997-98 to the State under the State Plan as against Rs. 192 crores for 1996-97.

Milk Co-operatives

3243. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of milk co-operatives presently existing in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to form one lakh dairy cooperatives during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has conveyed that such a high target cannot be achieved in five years; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) About 90,000 dairy cooperative societies have been organised in the country under various State Government and Central Government schemes upto 31.12.96.

(b) and (c) A conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry and Dairying recommended formation of additional one lakh dairy cooperative during the Ninth Plan.

(d) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has expressed its doubt on the ground that since the beginning of Operation Flood in 1970, it has been possible to organise only over 71000 Anand pattern dairy cooperative societies.

(e) Government would endeavour to organise as many additional dairy cooperatives as possible.

Area covered under Public Distribution System Scheme

3244. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts in the country are still not covered by Public Distribution System Scheme (PDS);